

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN POWERS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE- MENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating John M. Powers on the occasion of his retirement as the City Attorney for thirty years for the city of Vallejo, California.

John was born July 7, 1938, in Oakland, California. He attended grammar school in Oakland, and graduated from St. Mary's High School in Berkeley in 1956. Four years later he graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, majoring in economics, with a minor in political science. He obtained his Bachelor of Law degree from the University of California School of Law, Boalt Hall, in Berkeley, California, in June 1963. He passed the State Bar Examination in San Francisco in August 1963. Prior to engaging in the practice of law full-time, John served with the Army on active duty from December 1963 to June 1964. He then became a reservist with the California Army National Guard.

In July 1964, John came to Solano County as a Deputy County Counsel under County Counsel Jim Shumway and remained in that position until April 1967, when he was named assistant to County Counsel Milton G. Goldinger. Among other duties, John attended meetings of the Board of Supervisors, represented the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District and various school districts, along with the Sheriff, Assessor, Tax Collector, and Judges. He also once represented the Solano County Community College District.

John Powers was appointed Vallejo's first full-time, in-house City Attorney in March, 1971. Some of his accomplishments include actively participating in the numerous transactions relative to the conversion and reuse of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard; representing the City of Vallejo in litigation challenging the relocation of Marine World/Africa USA (now Six Flags Marine World) from Redwood City to Vallejo that resulted in a stipulated settlement after the Court denied petitioners' application for injunctive relief, and preparing the contract between the City of Vallejo and the Vallejo City Unified School District providing for the financing arrangements for the renovation of Corbus Field at Vallejo Senior High School. He also provided legal services including review of articles of incorporation and by-laws, and assistance with organization of the board of directors for the formation of VALCORE (Vallejo Community Organizations Recycling) in 1981, and the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation. John

has represented the City of Vallejo and its various officers and employees in personal injury and civil rights litigation and lawsuits involving the assistance or denial of land use, zoning and other planning approvals and entitlements. He has also drafted or reviewed and approved many ordinances, resolutions, legal opinions, contracts and other documents essential to the operation of the City of Vallejo municipal government.

Over the years, several of John's deputies have gone on to become well-established attorneys for other cities, including William Galstan to Antioch, Chuck Lamoree to Vacaville (via a stint as Solano County Counsel), and Michael Rousch to Pleasanton.

John has performed many forms of volunteer work during his tenure as City Attorney. One of the most notable was the many hours he worked with the committee that renovated Corbus Field at Vallejo Senior High School. His efforts with the fundraising project to replace the field lighting led to a fund with his name, "The Powers Lighting Fund".

John spent many active years as a volunteer with the Silverado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, serving as Council President for two terms as a member of the Executive Board. John currently is a member of the California State Bar and the Solano County Bar Association. He is also a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Executive Lions of Vallejo (where he was a charter member and past president), and the Order of the Sons of Italy in America.

John has been, and continues to be, very well respected in the City of Vallejo and Solano County, both in his role as a government official and as a member of the community. John's expertise, knowledge and sense of dedication will be deeply missed.

John lives in Vallejo with his wife of 37 years, Sharon. They have three adult children: Rhonda, Lisa, and Michael; and two grandchildren, Jack and Joe.

I know I speak for all the members when I wish John M. Powers a very happy and healthy retirement, and when I thank him for the many contributions he has made to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTH AMERICAN SAFE BOATING WEEK

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North American Safe Boating Week which will be celebrated throughout the United States on May 19th through May 25th, 2001.

In particular, I would like to recognize one organization that has continually promoted

safe boating in California. This organization is the Lake County Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 38 which is in the First Congressional District. The all-volunteer Flotilla was chartered on May 3, 1969.

By patrolling Lake County with up to six vessels at once, this volunteer group operates at its own expense to provide a valuable service to the community. The organization, which is part of the Lake County Disaster Preparedness Committee, also teaches numerous public education classes on boating including Advanced Coastal Navigation. In 1995, during the high water situation in Lake County, the Flotilla cleared 150 tons of floating debris. Since 1974, they have provided invaluable service by patrolling the annual Fourth of July boat parade and fireworks.

The Flotilla has won the prestigious Flotilla Meritorious Achievement Award three times. This award recognizes that the Flotilla is the most outstanding Flotilla in a two and a half state region. In addition, the Flotilla has received numerous other distinctions over its thirty plus years of service.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the Lake County Flotilla for its unwavering commitment to making our waterways safe for boating, and further encouraging all boat owners and operators to follow safe boating practices at all times.

IN MEMORY OF AL HIBBLER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today is a bitter-sweet day. It is with both great sadness and immense pride that I rise today in honor and celebration of the life of a music legend, Mr. Al Hibbler.

Albert George Hibbler was born on August 16, 1915 in Tyro, Mississippi. At the age of twelve he moved to Arkansas and entered school for the first time when he was fourteen years old. Blind since birth, Al Hibbler studied voice at the Conservatory for the Blind in Little Rock and sang in the choir as a soprano. Four years later his voice deepened to his signature eloquent baritone. Hibbler became the first blind artist to achieve significant popularity as an entertainer.

After leaving the Conservatory, Mr. Hibbler started singing the blues in roadhouses, but shortly thereafter realized his first love was soft smooth ballads. He sang with local bands throughout Arkansas and Texas until 1942 when he landed a major break with Jay McShann's band in the 1940's. Eighteen months later Hibbler's dream of becoming a big band singer came to fruition when he auditioned and was hired as lead singer for the Duke Ellington Orchestra. He remained

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